(a) whether Government have made any evaluation of the production of potato and onion in the country during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the steps taken to increase the production of potato and onion; and

(d) the target set thereon for 2003-04?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The Government of India make assessment, from time to time, about production of potato and onion in the country. The production of potato and onion during 1999, 2000 to 2001-02 is as under :

(in million tonnes)

	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
Potato	24.71	22.48	24.08
Onion	4.89	4.55	4.79

(c) and (d) The Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro-Management in Agriculture — Supplementation/ Complementation of States' efforts through Work Plan. Under the scheme the States have greater flexibility to pursue the programmes including on potato and onion as per their prioritized needs. Through this scheme, efforts are made to ensure the availability of quality seeds, to demonstrate technologies, training of farmers, dissemination of information etc. Besides, under the scheme of National Horticulture Board on "Development of Commercial Horticulture through Production and Post Harvest Management" project based financial assistance is provided in the form of capital investment subsidy @ 20% of the total cost of the project with a maximum limit of Rs. 25 lakhs. Under the scheme growers of potato/ onion are eligible for taking up cultivation of these crops on commercial scale with improved technologies. Targets are not set for production of onion and potato.

Potential of Jharkhand for cultivation of medicinal plants/energy plantations

3173. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the potentials of Jharkhand for cultivation of medicinal plants and energy plantations like Ethanol have been examined;

(b) if so, the details of the findings thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) No specific study has been conducted to examine the potential for cultivation of medicinal plants and energy plantation in the State of Jharkhand.

(c) The Government of India is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro Management in Agriculture-Supplementation/ Complementation of States' efforts through Work Plan under which the State Governments can take up various programmes including the cultivation of medicinal plants as per their felt needs and requirements. The State Governments prepare the Work Plan after ascertaining the potential and requirement. Besides, the National Medicinal Plants Board under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is also implementing schemes for cultivation of medicinal plants in the country including Jharkhand.

Drought relief measures in Andhra Pradesh

3174. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH :
DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central team which recently toured Andhra Pradesh, identified actual areas, Districts and Mandals affected by drought;

(b) if so, the full details of the areas, Districts and Mandals identified under drought;

(c) whether any action has been taken by Government with regards to relief measures in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) if so, details of various relief measures taken, so far, by Central and State Governments in Andhra Pradesh to mitigate the sufferings of the affected people and livestock, District-wise and Mandal-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) A Study Team led by the Area Officer visited Andhra Pradesh in February, 2003 for assessment of requirement of additional assistance from National Calamity Contingency